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Deputy Director for Administration

Assistant Director for Research and Reports

21 MAR 1951

Possible transfer of foreign-names staff, Board of Geographic Names, to CIA.

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1. Pursuant to a telephone conversation between [redacted] and [redacted] there are transmitted herewith: (a) letter from Director of Division of Geography, Department of Interior, to [redacted] CIA representative on the BGN, 13 Feb 1951; (b) memo from [redacted] for the Executive, RR, giving background material and suggestions.

2. O/RR believes that it is essential to the NIS Program that the foreign names work of the Board's Staff continue without major interruption. This Office would prefer the continuance of the geographical names work as presently assigned, but it appears that the Department of Interior and probably the Bureau of the Budget may insist on transfer of responsibility for foreign names research. While this work is of common concern, it is not purely an intelligence function, even though intelligence agencies benefit therefrom. If the foreign names staff work must be transferred, the CIA representative on the Board believes that no other agency or office would be as suitable a recipient as CIA, provided that IAC approval for such work within CIA were obtained in order to assure a greater degree of cooperation, than now exists, from agencies represented on the Foreign Names Committee. The present strength of the Foreign Names Staff is approximately 20 persons, the majority of whom are cleared through "Secret" for handling NIS manuscript and source materials. If CIA assumes responsibility for this function additional space will have to be provided as O/RR is already overcrowded.

3. No reply will be made to the letter from the Director of the Division of Geography, pending receipt of comment from you. An information copy of this memo and attachments is being furnished Assistant Director for Intelligence Coordination.

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MAX F. MILLIKAN

Encls:

OAD/RR para. 1.

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15 March 51

Distribution:

Addressee O & 1

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2 MAR-51  
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